

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team  
Meeting Notes  
January 14, 2004**

Note: These meeting notes are provided through the courtesy of Sam Loftin.

Doug Tucker and Phil Taylor introduced Jeanine Foster and Clancy Philipsborn, consultants (AMEC E&E) for the County working on a FEMA multihazard mitigation plan. They are looking for existing information to address four main areas of emphasis for the Plan: 1) risk map information for the region, 2) hazard management programs already in existence, 3) coordination with other hazard management programs/plans in the region, and 4) coordination with surrounding agencies/landowners. Phil Taylor will be the local contact for this effort.

Doug Tucker passed around the draft defensible space risk assessment from the Davey Group. There are plans to produce an interactive CD out of this work. Doug is working with Kathy DeLucas (LANL Public Affairs) to coordinate the upcoming Wildfire 2004 in late April. All reports indicate an early fire season so the scheduling is tentative. Weather has been good for pile burning and several agencies in the area have been taking advantage of this.

Louis Naranjo is now Lt. Governor of San Ildefonso Pueblo.

Gene Darling reports that the forecast remains dry. There is a slight chance of precipitation later this week but the bulk of the current storm will pass south of us. Fire danger is now at moderate despite cold temps. LANL is working on getting a helicopter on site early this season. Arrangements have been made to use helicopters and retardant on LANL property under emergency conditions.

Susan DiMauro (Davey Resource Group) reports through an email communication that the Los Alamos County Defensible Space hotline is 1-888-686-7782. This is the new, toll-free number for the project and is available for answering questions related to defensible space and wildfire preparedness by homeowners.

Barbara Morehouse (Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona) has extended an invitation to IWMT members to assist in the evaluation of a new GIS model for strategic planning for wildland fire management. The model, FCS-1, combines fire, climate, and societal factors to produce fire risk maps. The model has been applied to four study regions, which includes the Jemez Mountains as one region. The evaluation will be conducted at the Best Western Hilltop Hotel in Los Alamos on February 10, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. For more information, contact Barbara Morehouse at [morehoub@u.Arizona.edu](mailto:morehoub@u.Arizona.edu).

The U.S. Forest Service, Southwest Coordination Center reports in their website that drought in Arizona and New Mexico is likely to persist through March 2004. The result

is that the potential for more severe fires during the early summer months will be elevated and on a level similar to 2002.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its December 2003 information packet that hydrological drought is expected to persist in most of the Southwest through the winter. For the winter and early spring, the temperature outlook is for above-average temperatures. Precipitation levels in New Mexico are expected to be average or slightly above average. Drought conditions are expected to persist. For more information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, January 28, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice ([balice@lanl.gov](mailto:balice@lanl.gov), 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.